

In the Drawings:

Five drawing sheets, identified as "Replacement Sheets" 1/5 - 5/5, are enclosed which incorporate the following changes (shown on five "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" 1/5 - 5/5 sheets attached as an Appendix):

(1) On sheet 1/5, in FIG. 1, the lettering on the side of the annular body 44 of the tread 14 has been deleted;

(2) On sheet 2/5, in FIG. 2, the lettering on the side of the annular body 44 of the tread 14 has been deleted;

(3) On sheet 3/5, in FIG. 4, the reference letters "P" and "R" have been deleted and replaced by -- E -- and -- F --;

(4) On sheet 4/5, in FIG. 6, the lettering on the side of the annular body 44 of the tread 14 has been deleted; and

(5) On sheet 5/5, in FIG. 7, the lettering on the side of the annular body 44 of the tread 14 has been deleted.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement by the Examiner is acknowledged.

Amendments have been introduced in FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 on the five enclosed "Replacement Sheets" 1/5 - 5/5 of the drawings in order to correct and thus overcome the basis of the objection raised by the Examiner and also to correct and/or delete other subject matter as explained above. Five "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" sheets 1/5 - 5/5 are attached in an Appendix which show in red where changes are made without introduction of new matter.

The specification has been amended to correct a reference letter ("J") incorrectly recited (should have been "K") to identify the direction of rotation of the wheel. Also, the headings in the specification have amended so as to appear in upper case without underlining. No new matter has been introduced.

During a telephone conversation with the Examiner on May 23, 2006 about the objection of paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Office Action regarding Claims 1, 6, 14 and 20, the Examiner stated that, upon reflection, he would withdraw the objection. The undersigned attorney on behalf of Applicants wishes to express his appreciation for this to the Examiner.

It is submitted that the rejection of Claims 5 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, have now been overcome as follows:

regarding Claim 5, parent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled Claim 4 which provides an antecedent basis for the limitation "said holes" as now appears in an amendment introduced in Claim 5; and

regarding Claim 30, an amendment has been introduced which is believed to correct the insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation of "first sector" and "second sector" in Claim 30.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 8-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is hereby acknowledged. Independent base Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matters of intervening dependent Claims 4 and 6 and the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 8 and so it is believed that amended independent Claim 1 is equivalent to Claim 8 rewritten in independent form so as to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The dependencies of Claims 7, 9 and 11 have been changed to Claim 1. Claims 4, 6 and 8 have been canceled in view of the incorporation of their subject matters into Claim 1. Thus, it is believed that amended independent Claim 1 and Claims 3, 5, 7 and 9-13 depending directly or indirectly thereon are now in allowable form. No new matter has been introduced.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 14-19 would be allowable if amended to overcome the objection made in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. As mentioned near the beginning of these Remarks, the Examiner has indicated that he would withdraw the objection to the claims mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Thus, it is believed that Claims 14-19 are in allowable form. No new matter has been introduced.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 27-29 are allowable is hereby acknowledged. Also, the indication by the Examiner that Claim 30 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, is hereby acknowledged. The amendment introduced in Claim 30 is believed to overcome the cited rejection and so it is believed that Claim 30 is now in allowable form along with its base Claim 27. No new matter has been introduced.

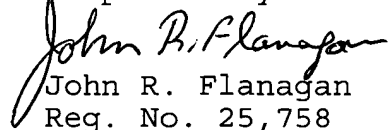
With reference to the question posed by the Examiner in the "Examiner's Note" contained in paragraph 14 on page 10 of the Office Action, Applicant's answer is that, except for Claim 28, Applicant did NOT intend invoke 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph. Thus, the Examiner's stated interpretation of the claims in this regard is correct.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1-3,

5, 7, 9-19 and 27-30, as presented herein, are considered to distinguish over the prior art of record, and thereby to be patentable. Thus, favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Date: June 2, 2006

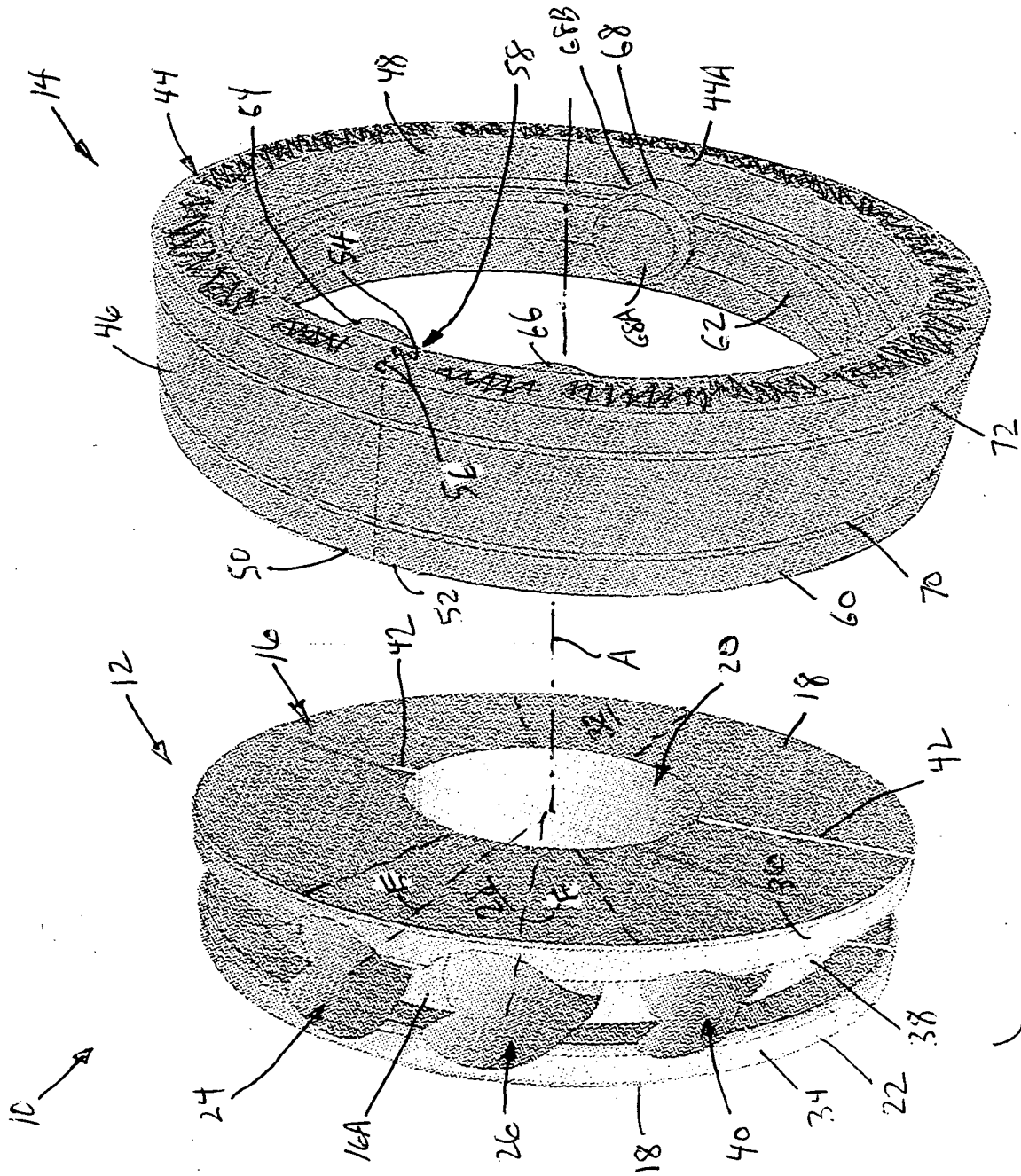
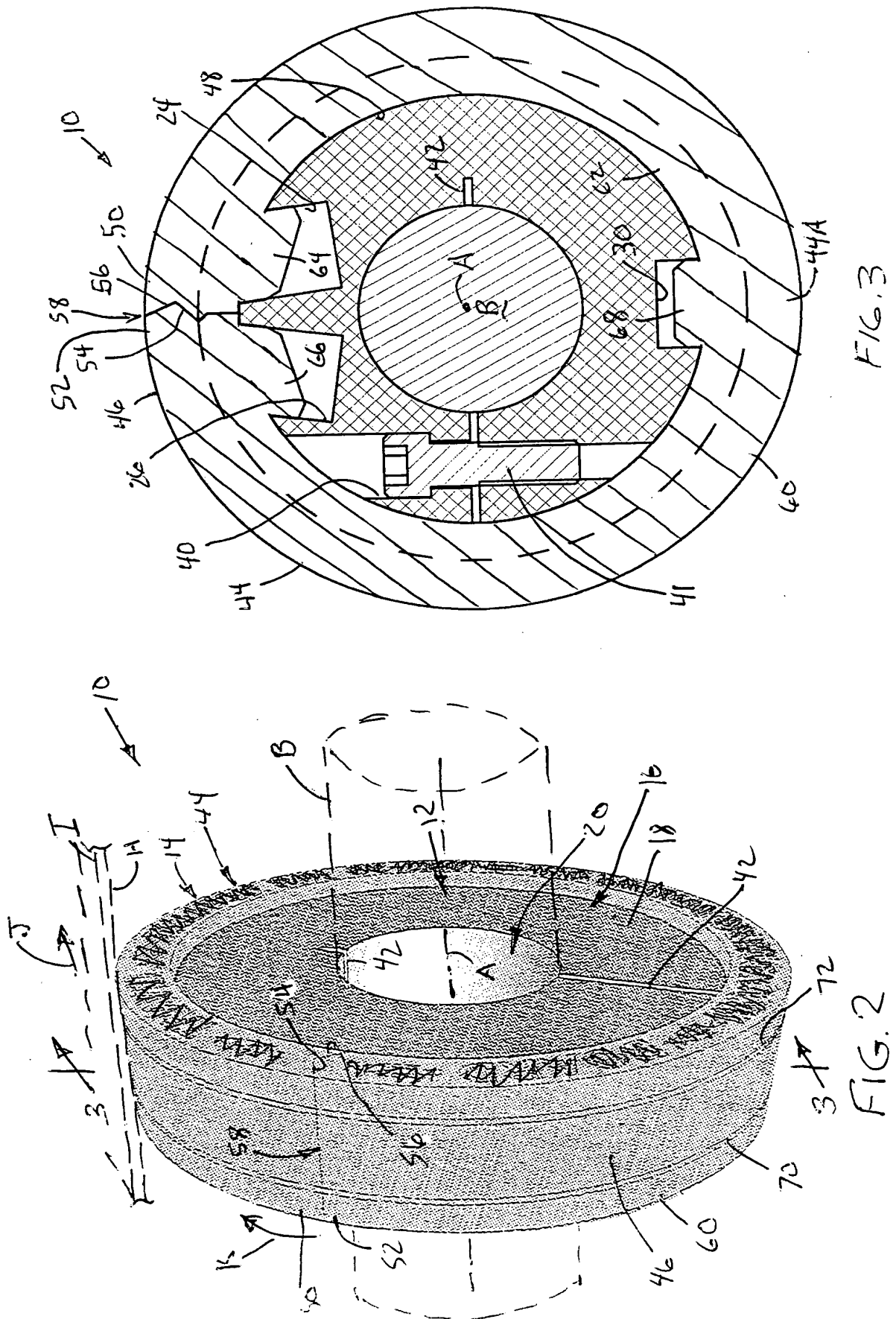


FIG. 1



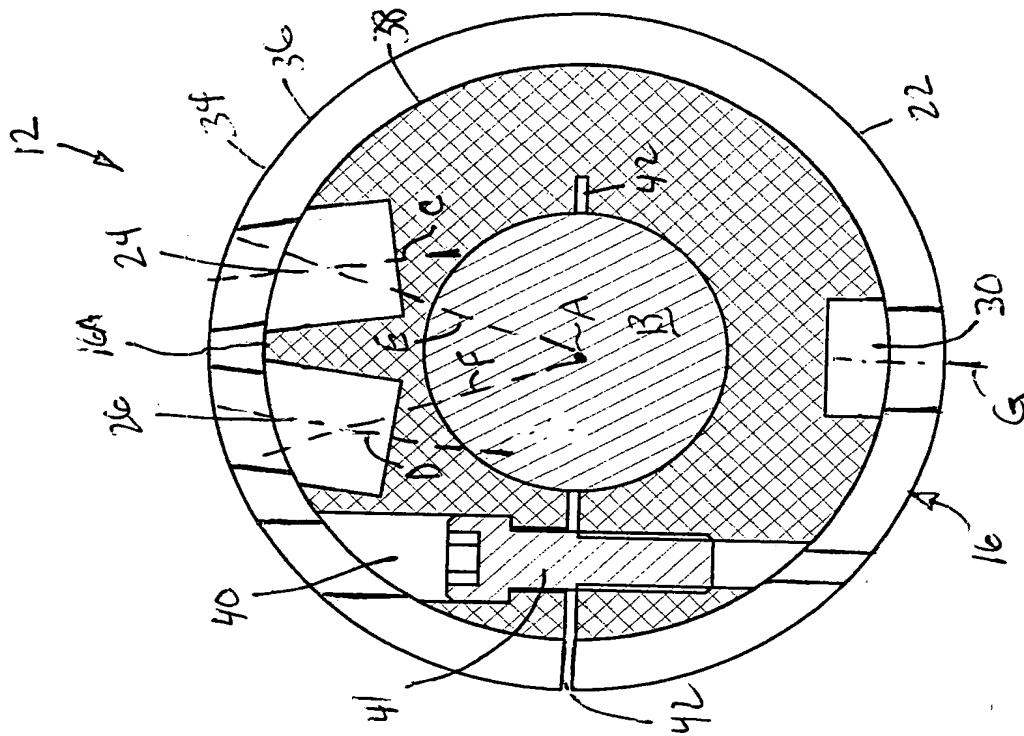


FIG. 5

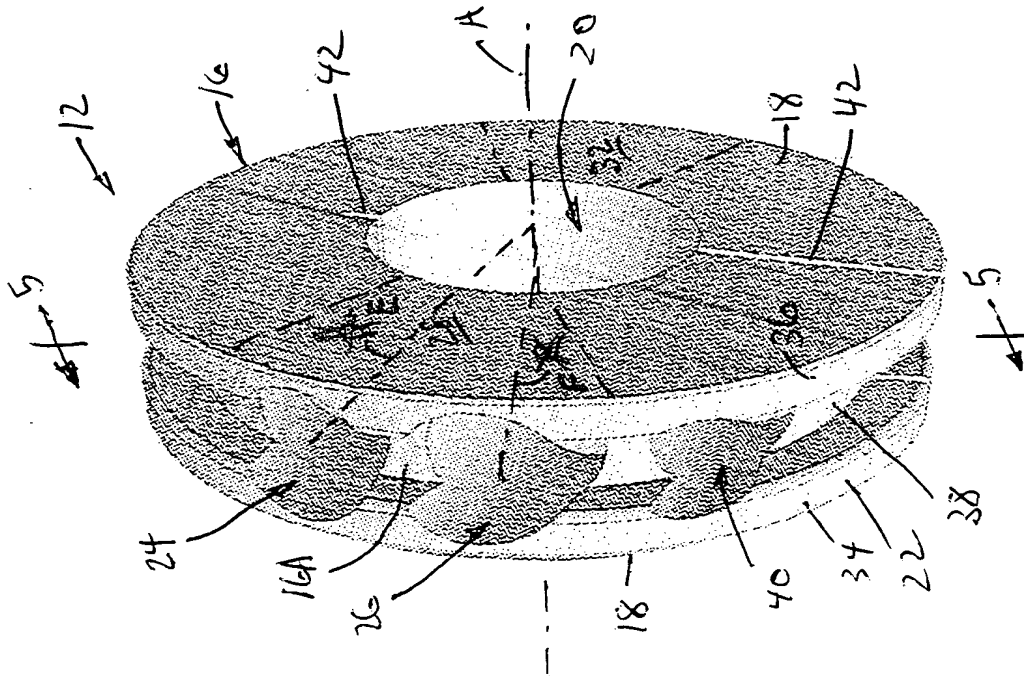


Fig. 4

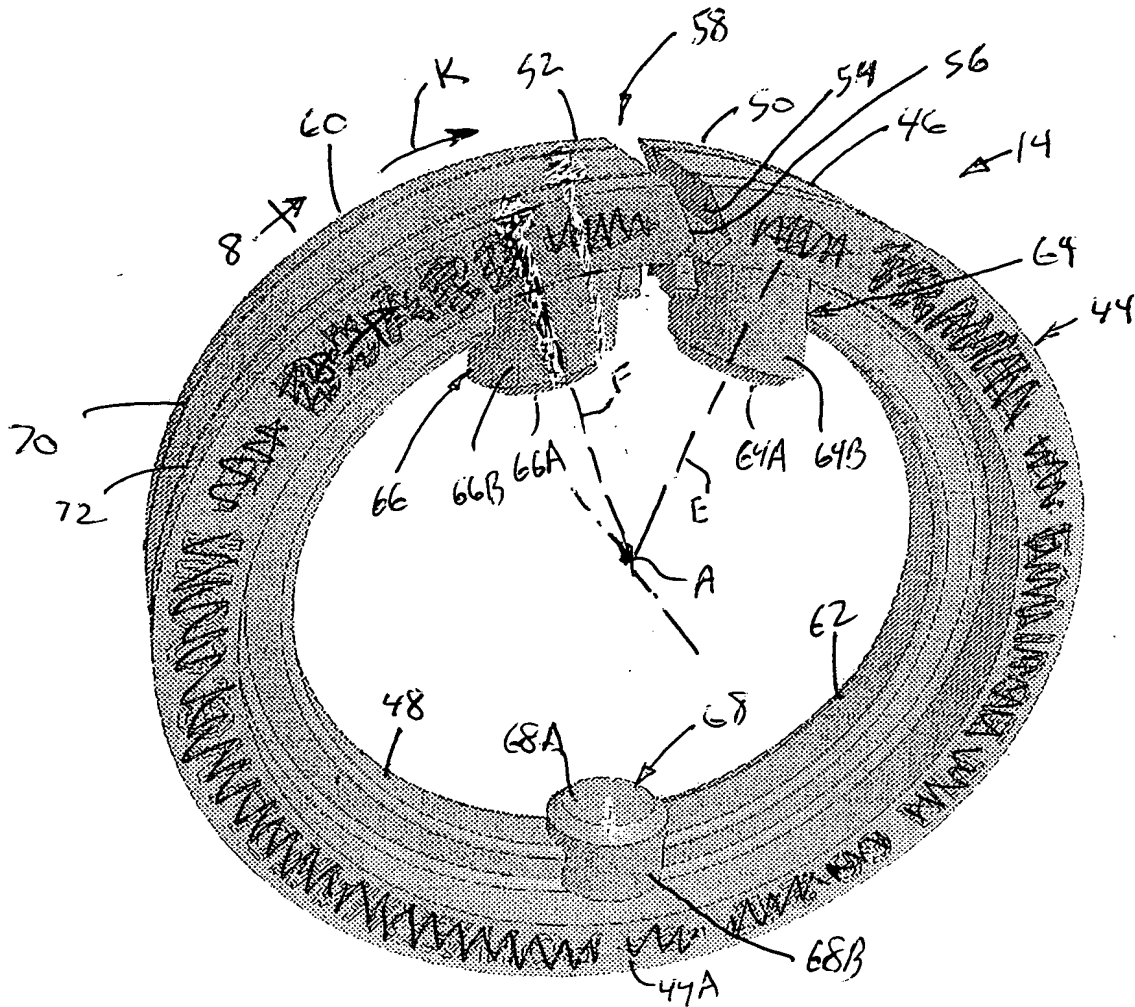


FIG. 6

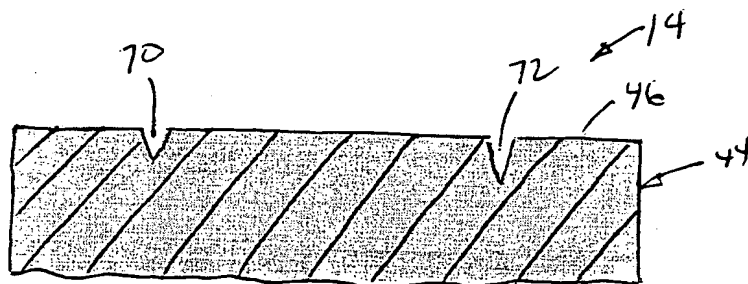


FIG. 8

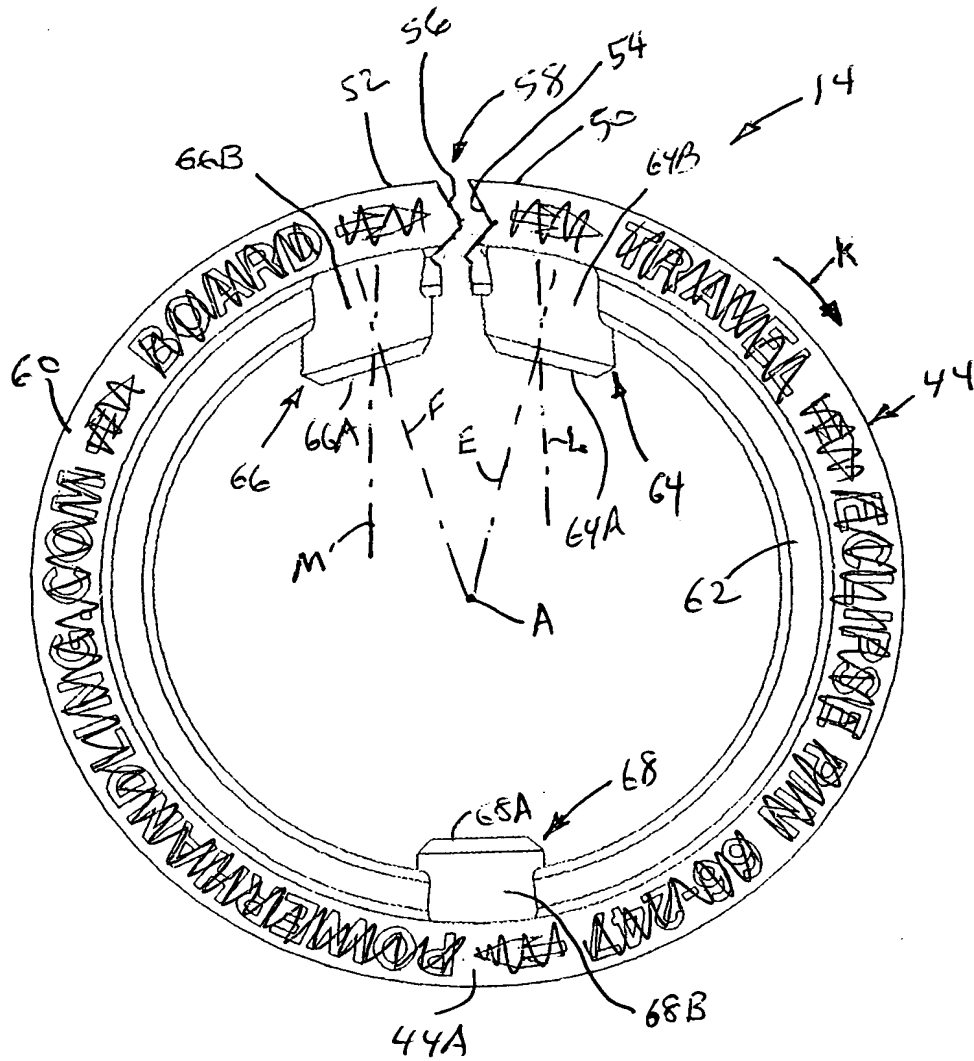


FIG. 7